



Town of Arlington, Massachusetts
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Minutes 10/14/2010

MEETING MINUTES

Tree Committee

Meeting Date: October 14, 2010

Prepared by: Lisa Decker

Present: Sally Naish, Mary Ellen Aronow, Eliza Burden, Lisa Decker, Andrew Fischer, Clarissa Rowe, Ed Trembly, Corinna Vanderspek, Greg Watt.

General

- September meeting minutes were approved as unanimously amended.
- Lisa will submit the minutes to the Town after approval by the Committee.

Town Day Debriefing Discussion

The Tree Committee's booth was very well attended and people seemed generally interested in the town's trees. People were eager to talk, asked specific questions about what trees to plant, the process and procedure for tree planting and dead tree removal and where to purchase trees. Clarissa described the town's process of ordering bare root trees and planting in early spring. We discussed ideas for next year and thought we could have a signup sheet for tree planting to give to DPW along with a hands-on tree planting seminar at the booth.

Discussion about the Tree Planting Process

Clarissa would like to increase tree planting. We discussed how to streamline the planting process. One idea is to place an article/announcement in the Advocate that describes the process. Another idea is to get a list of approved installers from Jim Dodge.

- Clarissa explained that the Committee cannot get involved in any disputes between residents and town regarding trees (for example the Waldo street tree removal).

Mission and Goals

Sally anticipates that the Committee will need to allow for time to establish our mission and goals. The Committee members agreed.

- Clarissa's short term goal is to plant more trees quickly. The Committee agreed.
- Eliza compiled the list of the Committee's goals based on the exercise we participated in last meeting. The list is a starting off point for further discussion. She will collate the missions and goals and will put a draft together for our review.
- Sally reviewed the goals that the Selectmen originally had for the Committee. One of the first goals was to replant the trees that came down in the microburst last spring.
- We discussed goals and missions from surrounding towns (Cambridge, Belmont and Lexington). Lexington's goals match closely with ours.
- We discussed Jim Dodge's goals - according to Clarissa, both a tree inventory and fundraiser for trees are top goals for the town.

Website

Sally spoke to Dan Foskett regarding the web design. Dan is prepared to do approximately 4 hours worth of work (free of charge) that could include transferring the content of the current website into WordPress if that is how we want to proceed.

- The website subcommittee will get together to discuss format and outline draft to circulate among Committee members. Mary Ellen can help the subgroup learn Word Press.
- We discussed ideas for the website. One idea is to provide links including: nurseries, how to donate money, planting trees, basic tree information, photos of trees in various seasons, invasive trees, native species, relative value of trees, environmental

and economic value and the tree removal process.

NSTAR Update

Clarissa reported that two meetings have occurred between Jim Dodge, the Town Manager and NSTAR. Currently, NSTAR will not compromise and are at a stalemate with the town. NSTAR work has not occurred in the town since this summer.

How to spend Trees Please Money?

According to Clarissa the funds are in the Garden Club account - she will determine how the Committee can access the funds.

Other Concerns

Clarissa discussed the necessity for a cleanup on the Minuteman path including the eradication of Norway maples and further erosion. Clarissa recommends that we all go out and take photos of particularly eroded areas.

The Committee would like to schedule an early evening meeting this winter so that Jim Dodge would be able to attend.

Announcements

Tree Steward Training program Nov. 5 and 6 in Petersham, MA

· Urban Tree Symposium, Peter Del Tredici Nov 18

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.